

Announce \$7 Million Project for Arsenal

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(Continued from Page One)

shells, bombs, mines, grenades, etc. DNT is used as a component of propellants.

The Elwood Unit is operated by government personnel for the loading and assembly of shells, bombs and components.

Col. Ronald B. Currens is commanding officer of Joliet Arsenal. J. E. Helquist is factory manager of the Kankakee unit for U. S. Rubber Company.

New Administration Building Included In Current Plans

The Army Ordnance Corps today announced release of \$7,462,370 to rehabilitate all the remaining TNT lines at the Kankakee Unit of Joliet Arsenal, including \$490,500 to build an administration building there for the operating contractor, U. S. Rubber Company.

The U. S. Corps of Engineers, acting for the Ordnance Corps, has been directed to ask for bids on both projects. Construction contracts are expected to be awarded within the next 60 days by the District Engineer at Chicago.

Reconditioning of the remaining standby TNT lines at the Kankakee Unit of the Arsenal will probably take five months. When they are rehabilitated, some of them will be placed in operation at once, and the rest kept in a state of readiness for later production.

For the additional operations now planned, about 1,100 more workers will be needed by the U. S. Rubber Company. This firm operates the Kankakee unit for the Ordnance Corps. More than 1,700 people are employed there now.

IN THE PAST 18 months, a total of about \$16 million has been spent or allocated for reconditioning of the Kankakee Unit and adding new equipment. U. S. Rubber started rehabilitating the huge chemical works in March, 1951.

In April and May of this year, two supplements totalling \$50 million were added to the company's original cost-plus-fixed-fee operating contract with the Ordnance Corps. These supplements extended the term of the contract and called for an increased volume of production. The revised contract now extends to Dec. 31, 1953.

The administration building will relieve a space shortage that has hampered the operation of U. S. Rubber and the Ordnance Ammunition Center for the past year. At present, most of the company's administrative and clerical personnel are housed in a part of the OAC headquarters building, and neither group has adequate space. Originally the space shortage was caused by the relocation of OAC from St. Louis to Joliet Arsenal.

THE BUILDING will be located near the OAC headquarters, about two miles west of U. S. Route 66A. It will be of frame and asbestos siding construction, two stories high, and contain 30,000 square feet of floor space.

The Ordnance Ammunition Center, whose headquarters personnel now numbers more than 700, is responsible for nearly all U. S. production of artillery shells, rockets, aerial bombs, land mines, grenades and pyrotechnics. Commanded by Brig. Gen. Joel G. Holmes, it directs the activities of 24 ordnance manufacturing installations in 17 states. This year, the center's program amounts to about \$2.5 billion.

The Kankakee Unit of Joliet Arsenal was built in 1940 and was known as the Kankakee Ordnance Works during World War II. In 1945 K.O.W. was merged with the Elwood Ordnance Plant to form Joliet Arsenal. Since then, the two parts have been known as the Kankakee unit and the Elwood unit of Joliet Arsenal.

KANKAKEE now produces trinitrotoluene (TNT), dinitrotoluene (DNT) and lead azide. TNT and lead azide are finished products used as explosives in artillery

(Continued on Page Two)